(d) whether further talks with troika are likely to be held in New Delhi; if so when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the Indo-EU Troika Ministerial level talks held in Paris on 6 April, views were exchanged on the further development of political and economic relations between India and the EU. In this context, our interest in securing enhanced market access for our exports to the EU on preferential term was projected to the EU-Troika. The importance of the EU approaching relations with India on the basis of a shared commitment to democracy and the rule of law, and the vast potential for developing mutually beneficial relations, was also underlined. India's perceptions regarding our regional environment, including Indo-Pak relations and prospects for SAARC cooperation, as well as our consistent stand on the NPT, were also conveyed to the EU-Troika.

(d) In terms of the Indo-EU Joint Political statement issued in December, 1993, Indo-EU Troika Ministerial level dialogue has been institutionalised on an annual basis. The EU-Troika has been invited to visit India for the next round of talks in New Delhi in 1996. Mutually convenient dates for these talks are to be determined subsequently.

Indians and Pakistanis in each others jails

3610. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Indian citizens are presently lodged in each of the Pakistan Jails;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) who is the oldest prisoner;

(d) how many Pakistanis are in Indian Jails;

(e) whether Government would take steps to hand over prisoners of each nation of humanitarian grounds;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if the answer to part (e) above be in the negative, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) According to available information, at present there are 1161 indian prisoners, under detention in Pakistani jails. Pakistani authorities have not informed us of the whereabouts of detention of these prisoners, some of whom are believed to be in Pakistani custody once 1965 and 1971 conflict.

(d) We do not consider it in public interest to disclose this information in Parliament.

(e) and (f) The question of early release and repatriation of all Indian prisoners under detention in Pakistan had repeatedly been taken up with the Government of Pakistan. These efforts continue.

(g) Pakistan does not furnish details of the Indian prisoners lodged in various jails in Pakistan on a case by case basis.

Meeting of Indo-China Joint Working Group

3611. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an Editorial published in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 7th March, 1995 on the recently held Indo-China Joint Working Group's meeting in New Delhi on lessening of force deployment along the two countries 4060 kilometer borders; and